AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently Twice Amended) A method for use in cable systems, the method for forwarding messages containing cryptographic keys from multiple <u>conditional</u> access sytems that control a population of set-top boxes to an encryption renewal system, the method comprising:

storing a single fictitious address of a virtual set-top box, said fictitious address being identical for each of said multiple <u>conditional</u> access systems;

generating a unique key within each of said multiple <u>conditional</u> access systems as a ~~funtion~~ <u>function</u> of the identity of each particular <u>multiple</u> <u>conditional</u> access system;

encrypting said unique key for each of said multiple <u>conditional</u> access systems; <u>and</u>

encapsulating each of said encrypted unique keys in a message encoded to be forwarded to said single fictitious address.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the encoded message by the encryption renewal system which has information regarding the fictitious address.

3. (Presently Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising deriving by the encryption renewal system the <u>unique</u> ~~first cryptographic~~ key from the encoded message.

4. (Presently Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding to a subscriber set-top box, a control message containing information having the unique ~~first cryprographic~~ key for allowing the set-top box to decrypt pre-encrypted content for a designated duration.

5 - 21. (Previously Canceled)

23. (Not Elected) The system of claim 22 wherein the request is for an entitlement control message having information about a periodical key for accessing the second pre-encrypted content.

24. (Not Elected) An encryption renewal system for controlling access to pre-encrypted content generated by an encryption device, the system comprising:
one or more software instructions for receiving a request to retrofit an entitlement control message that allows a home device to access pre-encrypted content;
one or more software instructions for retrofitting the entitlement control message only after verifying that the pre-encrypted content was generated prior to or contemporaneous with a first authorized timestamp.

25. (Not Elected) The encryption renewal system of claim 24 wherein the request for the entitlement control message is accompanied by an encryption record having a second time stamp.

26. (Not Elected) The encryption renewal system of claim 25 wherein the second time stamp indicates when the pre-encrypted content was generated.

27. (Not Elected) An encryption renewal system for controlling access to pre-encrypted content generated by an encryption device, the system comprising:
means for receiving a request for an entitlement control message that allows a home device to access pre-encrypted content;
means for generating the entitlement control message only after verifying that the pre-encrypted content was generated prior to or contemporaneous with a first authorized timestamp.

28. (Not Elected) The encryption renewal system of claim 22 wherein the first encryption record is secured by a cryptographic signature.

29. (Not Elected) An offline encryption device comprising:

one or more software instructions for generating a first time stamp marking when a first encrypted content is generated; and

one or more software instructions for generating a second time stamp marking when a second encrypted content is generated, such that if the first time stamp is last authorized, the second encrypted content is decrypt-able only if the second time stamp is prior to or contemporaneous with the first time stamp.

30. (Not Elected) The system of claim 29 further comprising one or more software instructions for generating an encryption record having the first time stamp.

31. (Not Elected) The system of 29 further comprising an encryption renewal system for receiving a signal providing that the first time stamp is the last authorized time stamp.

32. (Not Elected) The system of claim 30 further comprising a video on demand system for forwarding a request to the encryption renewal system to access the second encrypted content.

33. (Not Elected) The system of claim 32 wherein the request is for an entitlement control message for retrofitting the second encrypted content.

34. (Not Elected) An offline encryption device comprising:

means for generating a first time stamp marking when a first encrypted content is generated; and

means for generating for generating a second time stamp marking when a second encrypted content is generated, such that if the first time stamp is last authorized, the second encrypted content is decrypt-able only if the second time stamp is prior to or contemporaneous with the first time stamp.

35. (Not Elected) The system of claim 29 further comprising means for generating an encryption record having the first time stamp.